

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS



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POLICY OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS ON DISCLOSURE OF COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

It is the policy of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to provide information to all interested parties regarding complaints and disciplinary actions resulting from violations of the Professional Engineers Act (Business and Professions Code section 6700, et seq.), the Professional Land Surveyors' Act (Business and Professions Code section 8700, et seq.), and/or the Board Rules (Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 400, et seq.).

COMPLAINTS

The Board keeps records for five years of complaints against licensees and non-licensees that do not result in disciplinary action (see below) involving violations of the Professional Engineers Act, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, and the Regulations of the Board Rules.

During the investigation, no information concerning the complaint will be disclosed.

If investigation reveals that there has been no violation of the law, no information concerning the complaint will be disclosed.

If investigation reveals that there has been a probable violation of the law, upon written or oral request, information concerning the complaint shall be disclosed as follows:

- 1. The number of complaints against a specific Board licensee or non-licensee.
- 2. The date the complaint was received and the date on which final disposition of the complaint was reached.
- 3. The disposition of the complaint, as follows:
 - a. Compliance obtained.
 - b. Complaint mediated/resolved.
 - c. Complaint referred for legal and/or disciplinary action (i.e., criminal action, citation issuance, and/or accusation filing).
 - d. Any other action taken, formal or informal.

<u>DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CRIMINAL ACTIONS, CITATIONS, ACCUSATIONS, AND FINAL ORDERS/DECISIONS)</u>

The Board shall keep records of disciplinary actions taken, including criminal convictions, citations, accusations, and final orders/decisions, as required by law.

Upon written or oral request, information regarding citations issued and accusations filed shall be disclosed as follows:

<u>Citations</u>: A citation shall be disclosed once it is issued along with its procedural status.

<u>Accusations</u>: An accusation shall be disclosed once it is filed along with its procedural status.

Upon written or oral request, information regarding final orders/decisions (final citation orders or decisions on accusations) shall be disclosed as follows:

<u>Final Orders/Decisions</u>: Final orders/decisions shall be disclosed once final and effective. Additionally, information shall be provided regarding compliance with the order/decision, as applicable at the time of the request.

In addition to providing the information described above regarding final orders/decisions upon request, the Board will publicize such final orders/decisions in any manner, consistent with the provisions of the Information Practices Act (Civil Code section 1798, et seq.), the Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250, et seq.), and other applicable laws, that the Board deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, issuing press releases, publishing articles in Board publications and on the Board's Internet site, and providing information to the regulatory agencies for engineering and/or land surveying in other states.

Upon written or oral request, information regarding criminal actions resulting from Board investigations shall be disclosed as follows:

<u>Criminal Actions</u>: The name and address of the appropriate court which has instituted the criminal proceedings regarding criminal actions resulting from Board investigations, along with the pertinent docket or case number, shall be provided once the Board has received such information from the Division of Investigation, the appropriate District or City Attorney's Office, or the appropriate court.

In addition to providing the information described above regarding criminal actions upon request, the Board will publicize criminal actions in any manner, consistent with the provisions of the Information Practices Act (Civil Code section 1798, et seq.), the Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250, et seq.), and other applicable laws, that the Board deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, issuing press releases, publishing articles in Board publications and on the Board's Internet site, and providing information to the regulatory agencies for engineering and/or land surveying in other states.